[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

(*d*) With a view to allow the *Ayacut* land-holders full liberty to use the timber and fuel on their lands, will the Government be pleased to locate the departmental watch-stations at places nearest to the Sirkar forests and to issue free passes only for the timber and fuel transported through such stations?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The whole question is at present under the examination of Government. A committee will be constituted to go into the question.

Passes for the Transport of Timber.

121. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: (*a*) Are the Government aware that much difficulty is experienced by private land-owners in getting passes from the Forest Department for the removal of timber from their holdings?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to discontinue this system or will they be at least pleased to authorise the Tahsildars of the taluks concerned to issue such passes as in the case of bamboos?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The member is referred to the answer given to question No. 120.

Lime-shell Monopoly.

122. THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: (1) When the question of leasing the exclusive right of collecting lime-shells from the backwaters was suggested during the late administration, was it not decided that it was undesirable to grant such a lease?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was any special reason for the Government to grant the monopoly now;

(*b*) whether the lime-shells collected from the backwaters are not solely used in this State, and, if not, what portion thereof is exported annually;

(*c*) the amount realised by the lease of the monopoly;

(*d*) the quantity of shells or *chunam* purchased by Government for the use of the P. W. D., the Maramat, and other departments, during the last year, and the average price per standard *para*; and

(*e*) the average price the Government have to pay per standard *para* to the contractor after the lease of the monopoly?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (1) The answer is in the affirmative. The question of leasing the lime-shell beds was dropped at the time because of the objections of the Chief Engineer to the measure as then proposed.

(2) (*a*) No monopoly has been given. Leases with safeguards provided against the objections raised to the previous scheme have now been given.

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(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) Rs. 5,537 per annum for three years from 1098.

(*d*) & (*e*) Except in rare instances, public works are executed by contract, and materials are not purchased by Government. The information required is thus not available and cannot be collected without much labour. Prices differ in different places. The price of burnt shells now varies from 5½ to 7 fanams per Madras *para* equivalent to five standard *paras*.

Lease of lime-shells.

123. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the annual income expected by Government from the lease of lime-shells, in our lakes, recently sold in public auction?

(*b*) What quantity of lime is annually purchased for Government use by the Public Works and Maramat Departments?

(*c*) What was the price of lime-shells before the auction sale referred to above? What is its present price?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The member is referred to the answer to part 2 (*c*) of Question No. 122.

(*b*) The member is referred to the answer to part 2 (*d*) of question No. 122.

(*c*) Price of burnt shells.

Before the auction sale.	5 to 6⅓ fanams	per Madras *para*.
After sale.	5½ to 7 Do	

Publication of Legislative Council Proceedings.

124. MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council:

(1) the reasons which weighed with them in discontinuing the practice of publishing the proceedings of the Legislative Council in the Government Gazette;

(2) why they have given up publishing the translation of the same;

(3) whether they are not alive to the fact that such authorised translations published in the Gazette are a means of enriching the vernacular and tending to the political education of the people;

(4) whether Government will be pleased to furnish the Council with the following figures:

(*a*) the approximate amount of money required for printing and publishing the whole proceedings of the last session of the Council in the present manner; and

(*b*) the approximate amount required for publishing the same matter in the Gazette; and

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